



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 143

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1997

No. 85

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We recognize, O gracious God, that the burden of responsibility to support and defend the good traditions of this land is the concern of every person. Help us, in our assignments, to focus on what unites us, enable us to see more clearly those concerns that we share, may we be more articulate about those gifts of freedom and liberty for which we are custodians, and give us the vision to remember to be good stewards of the heritage that we have together. May we never settle for the good when we can do better, or give in to winning arguments instead of promoting justice and mercy. Lift our sights, O God, to see what truly makes us human so that we will be the people You would have us be and do those good things that honor You and serve this Nation with dignity and grace. In Your name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. HEFLEY] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HEFLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

AMERICA DESERVES A RAISE

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, "America deserves a raise." That is a slogan I quite agree with. I have a proposal that will give millions of taxpayers exactly that. It is called tax cuts. This is a method that probably has never occurred to those who coined the slogan, "America deserves a raise," but tax cuts are the best way to give taxpayers a raise.

Now, of course, the politicians really would not be giving anybody anything. The money people earn is already theirs to begin with. Government would only be letting them keep more of what they work so very hard to get.

Mr. Speaker, taxpayers do deserve a break. They should be able to keep more of their own money. They would then have the power to live their lives as they see fit, more freedom to realize their dreams, to build for the future and to provide for themselves and their families.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, America deserves a raise.

ARROGANT POLITICAL ACTS RESULT IN STAGNATION AND NON-ACTION

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, for the last 4 months a bipartisan task force on ethics reform has been meeting. Yesterday the 12 Members of that task force voted out its final recommendations with only one dissent, the gentleman from California [Mr. THOMAS]. All the Democrats voted for it and all but Mr. THOMAS on the Republican side. We set a public hearing for Friday and we were directing to have the matter voted on on the floor next week, perhaps as early as Tuesday.

Late last night we were informed that the Republican leadership of the House of Representatives had fired the task force, canceled the public hearing, and would not have the bipartisan work of the task force considered on the floor next week. This is the most arrogant political act since the Saturday Night Massacre, when Richard Nixon fired Archibald Cox 24 years ago.

We, as a bipartisan group, had agreed upon ways to reform the ethics task force with all the Republicans except one supporting that, and then we were fired by the Republican leadership last night and told we may not proceed to amend the ethics procedures of this House. This is unacceptable.

TAX REDUCTIONS SOON A REALITY FOR AMERICANS

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEUMANN. Mr. Speaker, in the great State of Wisconsin, Governor Tommy Thompson has provided the people of Wisconsin with tax reductions and maintained a balanced budget, and that is what we are about to do out here in Washington, DC.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper containing 100% post consumer waste

H3867